

## Market Round-up

Week Ending: 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2021

### Drug Approvals/Filings:

- The EC has approved **Merck** and **Pfizer's Bavencio (avelumab)** for the maintenance treatment of locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma (UC) – the most common type of bladder cancer.  
[LINK](#)
- The EC has approved **MSD's Keytruda** anti-PD-1 therapy, as a monotherapy for the first-line treatment of adult patients with metastatic microsatellite instability-high (MSI-H), or mismatch repair deficient (dMMR), colorectal cancer.  
[LINK](#)
- The EC has approved **AbbVie's Rinvoq (upadacitinib)** for both the treatment of active psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and active ankylosing spondylitis (AS).  
[LINK](#)
- **Mundipharma** and **Cidara Therapeutics' rezafungin** has been granted an **orphan drug designation** from the European Commission for the treatment of invasive candidiasis (IC).  
[LINK](#)
- **Bristol Myers Squibb's Revlimid** has received a recommendation from **NICE** for newly diagnosed multiple myeloma patients.  
[LINK](#)

### Covid19

- **Moderna** has reported that its COVID-19 vaccine seems to work effectively against new variants of the coronavirus discovered in the UK and South Africa.  
[LINK](#)
- **Eli Lilly's** neutralising antibodies **bamlanivimab** and **etesevimab** significantly reduced COVID-19-related hospitalisations and deaths in recently diagnosed, high-risk COVID-19 patients.  
[LINK](#)
- **Sanofi** is to begin manufacturing the COVID-19 shot from **Pfizer** and **BioNTech SE**. Sanofi will use its production infrastructure to boost supplies of the vaccine and perform late-stage manufacturing to supply over 125 million doses to the EU.  
[LINK](#)
- **Regeneron** is considering an emergency filing for its antibody cocktail **REGEN-COV** to protect people against COVID-19 after early trial results showed it conferred 100% protection against symptomatic infection.  
[LINK](#)
- **Gilead Sciences** says its antiviral **Veklury** should be effective against the new, more contagious COVID-19 variants discovered in the UK and South Africa.  
[LINK](#)
- Following Phase I results, **MSD** will discontinue its development of V590 and V591, two COVID19 vaccine candidates.  
[LINK](#)

## Drug Development:

- **Johnson & Johnson's** COVID-19 vaccine safely elicits an immune response - an interim analysis of Phase I/II trial data shows 90 percent of 18-55 year olds had a neutralising antibody response that lasts at least two months.  
[LINK](#)
- **Roche's** investigational bispecific antibody **faricimab** has hit the primary endpoint in two Phase III studies in people living with **neovascular** or wet age-related macular degeneration (**nAMD**).  
[LINK](#)
- A team at McMaster University, Canada has created a nasal spray as a drug delivery system to get **schizophrenia** medication directly to the brain.  
[LINK](#)
- The EMA has accepted a marketing authorisation application for **Global Blood Therapeutic's Oxbritya (voxelotor)** aiming to treat haemolytic anaemia in patients with sickle cell disease (SCD) who are 12 years of age and older.  
[LINK](#)
- In a Phase II trial, **Amgen's sotorasib** was shown to provide durable clinical benefit with a favourable safety profile in patients with pre-treated non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC)  
[LINK](#)

## NCPE Drug Updates:

- A full HTA is recommended for **Kyowa Kirin's Mogamulizumab (Poteligeo®)** which is indicated for the treatment of adult patients with mycosis fungoides or Sézary syndrome  
[LINK](#)
- **Bial Pharma's opicapone** for the treatment of Parkinson's is not be considered for reimbursement at the submitted price.  
[LINK](#)

## General Market News:

- Vaccines contract between **European Commission** and **AstraZeneca** was published today (Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January). Full press release in link  
[LINK](#)
- **AstraZeneca's** fast-growing BTK inhibitor **Calquence** is already challenging class leader **Imbruvica** from **Johnson & Johnson/AbbVie** in the treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL). Now, AZ has new data suggesting its drug is less likely to cause a serious cardiac side effect.  
[LINK](#)
- The international Psychiatry Consortium has funded its first project – a partnership which will investigate a new drug target for the treatment of **schizophrenia**. Partners are University of Oxford, the Earlham Institute, **Biogen** and **Boehringer Ingelheim**.  
[LINK](#)

## PMI Events

- **Jan 27th** - Prof Luke O'Neill gave a great breakfast webinar on Covid and the various vaccines in the running. Speaker slides and the recording from the event have been sent to all who registered.
- **Feb 10th** – the first **Voices of Pharma** session features Lucy Nugent, CEO with Tallaght University Hospital and Danny McCoy, CEO with Ibec. A third speaker will be announced shortly. Book your seat here: [Book Seat for Voices of Pharma](#)